

**DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMISSION
PO BOX 284
Bushkill PA 18324
Minutes of the March 11, 2006 Meeting**

A meeting of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Citizen Advisory Commission was held on Saturday, March 11, 2006, at the Bushkill Meeting Center, Bushkill, Pennsylvania. Chairman Kresge called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. This meeting was properly posted in the Federal Register, as required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (PL 92-463, Section 10(a)(2)).

Roll Call

Citizen Advisory Commission members in attendance were Ms. Bertucci-Turner, Mr. Gross, Mr. Hanley, Mr. Heller, Mr. Kresge, Ms. Maxaner, and Ms. McDowell. Absent were Mr. Murray, Mr. Price, and Mr. Van Campen. Park staff in attendance were Superintendent Donahue, Deputy Superintendent Nelson, Superintendent's Secretary Nelson, Administrative Officer Wilbur, Chief of Research and Resources Planning Lynch, Management Assistant Halainen, Acting Chief of Resource Protection and Visitor Management Clawson, Acting Chief of Visitor Services and Cultural Resources Cika. State Representative John Siptroth was also in attendance as was Nancy Shukaitis and future Commission member Robert Longcore. Members of the public who signed the attendance list included Frank Allen, Denis Ferfecki, Bill Irwin, Virginia Manbeck, Peter Ogrodnik, Gail Wershing, and Jen Wycalek.

Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2005, Commission meeting. The motion was seconded and approved by members present at that meeting.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2005, Commission meeting. The motion was seconded and approved, with one correction, by members present at that meeting.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2006, Commission meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

Correspondence

The list of letters received or sent since the last meeting was reviewed. This correspondence will be made part of the official record. Those wishing to review the correspondence may do so at park headquarters in Bushkill, Pennsylvania, or at the library repositories for the Commission.

1. Letter dated January 13, 2006, to Superintendent Donahue from Mr. Hoffman asking for names of those who had access to the Commission minutes in 2005. The park's response is attached.

2. Letter dated January 13, 2006, to Superintendent Donahue from the Lehman Township Supervisors in response to letters the Commission and Superintendent have sent them regarding a proposed road through private and state lands.
3. Letter dated January 27, 2006, to the Township of Montague from Chair Kresge thanking them for use of the Municipal Building for the January Commission meeting.
4. *Federal Register* notice dated January 30, 2006, announcing the March 11 and May 4, 2006, Commission meetings.
5. Press release dated January 31, 2006, titled "Draft National Park Service Management Policies Released for Public Review and Comment".
6. Letter dated January 31, 2006, to the Lehman Township Board of Supervisors from Superintendent Donahue requesting use of a township building for the August Commission meeting.
7. Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility News Release dated February 2, 2006, titled "Lawsuit to Find Industry Impetus Behind Park Policy Rewrite".
8. Press release dated February 2, 2006, titled "River Road Rehabilitation Project Put on Hold".
9. Press release dated February 6, 2006, titled "President's FY 2007 Budget Request for NPS Supports Visitor Services, and Natural, Cultural Resources Stewardship".
10. *New Jersey Herald* article dated February 9, 2006, titled "Park Use May be Expanded".
11. Press release dated February 14, 2006, titled "Park Resident Killed in Auto Accident on Old Mind Road".
12. Letter dated February 14, 2006, to Superintendent Donahue from Mr. Homyak regarding bear management in the national recreation area.
13. Press release dated February 15, 2006, titled "NPS Deputy Director Testifies at Congressional House Hearing Announces Next Steps in Draft 2006 Management Policies Review Process".
14. *The Star Ledger* article dated February 22, 2006, titled "Plan May Boost ATV Traffic in Water Gap", which quotes Mr. Gross.
15. Press release dated February 24, 2006, titled "Passing of Long-Time Park Volunteer Jim Morris".
16. Press release dated March 1, 2006, titled "Delaware Water Gap NRA Citizen Advisory Commission Meeting". A draft agenda is included.
17. Email dated March 10, 2006, to Ms. Nelson from Ms. Olsson stating that she would like to see the continued preservation of remaining houses and properties in the Tocks Island area.
18. Press release dated March 10, 2006, titled "Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Fiscal Year 2006 Budget".
19. Email dated March 10, 2006, to Ms. Nelson from Mrs. Shukaitis regarding proposed bridges to be erected to Depue Island.
20. Letters dated March 10, 2006 to Chair Kresge, the Smithfield Township Supervisors, and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources from the Delaware River Keeper Network relaying concern about a proposed bridge to Depue Island.
21. News articles dated March 10, 2006, announcing the resignation of Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton

Mr. Gross questioned correspondence item #6, asking if Lehman Township has accepted the invitation to host a Commission meeting at their municipal building on August 24. The

Superintendent replied that they had. A representative from the Wolfington development office could be invited to come to discuss the proposed development in Bushkill. Ms. Maxaner added that they can be given parameters on how long they can speak.

Letters received from those who cannot attend today are part of the official correspondence received.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Hanley recognized Denis Ferfecki, founder and moderator of the www.njtrout.com website, a member of the New Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited who has not arrived yet, and Oliver Grimsdell who represents the United Bow Hunters of New Jersey. These gentlemen will speak at today's meeting.

Public Participation

Tom Hoffman

Mr. Hoffman pointed out that Mr. Hanley spoke six times without being recognized. He should ask to be recognized by the Chair. This is a basic problem with procedure.

Mr. Hoffman asked if any members who were absent today or at the Montague meeting have offered an explanation. The reply was no. Mr. Hoffman stated that these meetings are scheduled well in advance and it is not good for the Commission or the public when members do not attend. Some members have not been here for a year and should be asked to attend.

Mr. Hoffman asked the Superintendent if he plans to make any changes in the fee demonstration program as some managers feel it is inadequate while others are awash in cash. Will there be any change in the disparity between income and visitation base? Superintendent Donahue replied that there are plans to change the program. There is new legislation that would allow parks to keep more of what they take in, but there will be no changes this year. Mr. Hoffman asked if any of those changes take into account that some parks have burdensome visitation. Superintendent Donahue replied that there are parks that retain eighty percent of what they collect for projects inside the park, and there are parks that do not collect fees but can compete for twenty percent of the money. The main objection is not the amount of revenue a park can keep, but that there is not a lot of discretion in how the money is used. We submit projects we want funded, then those projects are approved by others. The money cannot be used to plug holes in the park budget. Managers want that flexibility to use whatever funds are available to address the most urgent needs. Mr. Hoffman asked if the three wells that were required and drilled needed Regional approval. The reply was yes, every dollar expended under this program has to be approved by Region through a competitive process.

Mr. Hoffman stated that when Superintendent Donahue arrived from Florida he said the fee demonstration program was a disaster. He asked if the Superintendent had any change of mind. Superintendent Donahue stated that he does not remember making that comment, but will review the notes. He likes to think he is generally more positive than that. Mr. Hoffman asked if the Superintendent was aware that when Senator Gordon proposed the bill, it said that when a park takes in more than it needs, it has to abolish the program. Superintendent Donahue pointed out that more than one set of fees is charged in this park. The commercial use fees collected on

Route 209 are legislatively separate and have nothing to do with the fee demonstration program which is related to the fees collected at the parking lots. One of the issues is that the parking lots we provide are the only way to collect fees because of the long linear nature of this park with eighty-four entrances, many of which we do not own or control which leaves us with an inversely proportional amount of opportunity to collect fees to the amount of visitors we have. If we could collect a dollar from every person coming here, we would have one of the largest revenues, but that is not how it works.

Denis Ferfecki

Mr. Ferfecki expressed concern over a proposal to allow all terrain vehicles into the recreation area. Even with rules and regulations and designated areas, it would not work. It is his experience with these vehicles in wildlife areas in New Jersey, where they are not allowed on government lands, that they go in anyway because there is no enforcement to keep them out and the environmental damage in some areas is irreversible. To open it up in a recreation area will lead to environmental disaster. One thing these riders enjoy is riding in streams and waterways. In this recreation area there are high quality trout streams and if all terrain riders get access to the park they will not stay in designated areas and the trails will multiply.

Oliver Grimsdell

Mr. Grimsdell is a fisherman, a concerned resident, and is here to represent the United Bow Hunters of New Jersey. He is from the United Kingdom. Historically in Europe, access to the outdoors is massively restricted. The great thing about the United States is the access to the outdoors. Allowing all terrain vehicles will definitely diminish that experience, cause erosion and huge die offs of the trout population, and noise pollution. People come here for the peace and quiet. He opposes allowing them in the recreation area on three counts: erosion because they can ride anywhere and will not stay to designated trails; noise pollution; and wildlife crimes will be easier to commit because they will be further from roads and supervision. He cannot understand why anyone would consider this.

Arthur Garris

Mr. Garris stated that there was originally a sign that said "Welcome to Bushkill" by Fort Hyndshaw, and one by the check point that said "Shoemakers". He asked what happened to them. Deputy Superintendent Nelson replied that the historic commission may have taken those down to refurbish them. He will check into it.

Mr. Garris stated that the gentleman who purchased Tamiment bought Abby's Store. There is a rumor that they want a land trade with the park to use the parking lot. The Superintendent replied that the Wolfington properties purchased the store, but they have not approached the park about anything. They did casually ask about the parking lot and were told it is for public parking. The rumor on the intended use of the building is that it will be part of their real estate operations. The park has no issue with them unless they take up too much of the parking at that lot.

Mr. Garris is a member of the Bushkill Watershed Association and lives on Bushkill Falls Road. He is concerned about the development at Tamiment and is opposed to a land trade and sale of the Mountain Laurel Center because there was a lot of public money put into that center, and he is concerned about the roads, water and school situations. He feels it would be a good idea to

invite the developers to the August Commission meeting. They came before the township with plans about that project and the local citizens are very concerned about it.

Ms. Maxaner introduced Mr. Garris as one of the authors of the book Images of America, Eastern Poconos, Delaware Water Gap to Bushkill and congratulated him on its contents. Chapter 6 is about Bushkill the Village and Chapter 7, about Forest Park Road which is now Bushkill Falls Road, and includes the Unity House that is now the site of the Mountain Laurel Center. There is a publication about the Unity House, the Pocono country club for workers which was well done by Marie Summa, Mr. Garris' sister.

Gail Wershing

Ms. Wershing stated she has no complaints. She is the President of the Friends of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area whose mission is to promote and help fund the park. This year, with Tom Shimalla of the Pocono Environmental Education Center and Mr. Garris, the Friends obtained funding for watershed and stream identification signs on the Pennsylvania side of the river. They are looking to do the same in New Jersey, and maybe the fishing friends can help. The intention is to alert the public that there are streams that impact the water supply.

A major project of the Friends is sponsoring seven lectures. The first will be on May 20 and the last in November and those two will be family days with activities for children. All are welcome to attend and join.

Ms. Maxaner stated she has attended Friends lectures and they are very well done. She suggested they invite various authors of historic resources, have a forum or some way to bring them forward.

Jen Wycalek

Ms. Wycalek stated that she agrees with the sentiments concerning all terrain vehicles that were expressed earlier.

Ms. Wycalek asked for a status of the cell tower situation. The Superintendent replied that he informally understands one company is no longer pursuing its application, which leaves Verizon with the only proposal. They have been told how much the compliance would cost, and they have not responded. They would still need two towers to accomplish their goal.

Ms. Wycalek asked if Verizon had ever talked about the damage caused by birds flying into towers. The reply was yes. The park would submit an evaluation of environmental consequences to the State of New Jersey and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service who have domain over migratory waterfowl. Towers that are one hundred eighty feet tall impact visibility and wildlife, waterfowl as well. There are studies supporting both sides of that issue. The impacts would be considered.

Chair Kresge asked the Superintendent to brief everyone on the National Park Service Management Policies. Superintendent Donahue explained that these policies guide the entire National Park Service, and are done by the Washington office. They were last updated in 2001, and before that 1988. It is the prerogative of the administration to change policies. The official

position of the park service on this specific issue is that the proposed changes to the present management policies would not immediately require allowing these uses in parks, but eventually would make it easier for park managers to allow them. It is difficult in this park because there is the opportunity to engage in activities with large amounts of people and also to hike the ridge without seeing another person. It would be our intention to maintain that diversity of experience for people. With eighty-four entrances to the recreation area, it would be hard to enforce limitations and manage that activity. Superintendent Donahue has managed other areas that permit off road vehicles because of the massive size of the environment, and he mandated them to keep to designated trails. There is a large contingency that supports that activity. A major change in the policies is that the focus would shift to the park manager to justify saying no to this activity as opposed to having it denied across the board.

Mr. Grimsdell stated that the Commission could direct the Superintendent to do it. Superintendent Donahue explained that the Commission is advisory in nature, but he does take their recommendations into consideration with every decision he makes.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Donahue introduced park staff in attendance and gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Fiscal 2006 park budget (Attachment #1).

The Superintendent explained that the draft management policies were discussed at the January, 2006, Commission meeting and although that was not an official meeting because of a snafu with the *Federal Register*, those minutes were approved today and will be posted. Information on the draft policies was announced in press releases and made available for public review. The National Park Service extended the public comment period two times, and when the final draft is released, it will be announced in the *Federal Register*.

Mr. Gross asked how much more money will be put into the Pocono Environmental Education Center. Superintendent Donahue replied that the park does not pay for any of the education center's activities. We do have to pay the contractor once the building is deemed fit for occupancy. The park paid the fuel bill because the building was completed in the winter and the center did not take possession until later. Once they took possession, they did pay for fuel. We do not pay for anything outside of park facilities, but we do own the center and there are twenty-two thousand visitors who use that facility. Many people say the Pocono Environmental Education Center was their park experience as youngsters. We try to balance the dollar cost against the value of the visitor experience. The park and others have made commitments to replace cabins with in-kind cabins. Nothing will be built that the park cannot maintain. We have to be able to get there to pick up garbage, and that applies to every partner we work with. Mr. Gross stated there is concern that a lot of money is being spent on twenty-five thousand visitors, while there are many more fishermen and hunters and money is not spent on them

Mr. Gross stated that there are no plans to put in river accesses. He does not care about bigger sites, but smaller sites are needed. There are a number of locations in New Jersey where that could be done. It is difficult in Pennsylvania where vehicles are not permitted in agricultural lanes. That should be revisited. The old General Management Plan states that there should be

access every three-quarters of a mile in New Jersey, but says nothing about the Pennsylvania side.

Mr. Gross asked if the barriers on Old Mine Road between Pompey Road and the Hercules Gun Club could be moved in further for turkey season and shad fishing. Superintendent Donahue replied that Old Mine Road will be fixed, but he does not know how soon. The road is not closed to people, only vehicles, and vehicles can be driven up to the closed area. Mr. Gross replied that people his age cannot walk it. The barriers can be moved south and north a little ways to allow public access and still protect the park with accidents.

Mr. Gross reported that he met with a fisherman who said that Pennsylvania is initiating a new fishing guide program. Under the new system, guides on the Delaware River have to get a National Park Service permit that costs \$50.00 for the administration fee plus monitoring costs. Pennsylvania guides must purchase a state permit for \$100.00 and New Jersey guides operating in Pennsylvania have to purchase a non-resident permit which costs \$400. On the Upper Delaware, a New Jersey or New York guide has to pay \$400 to Pennsylvania, plus New York's or New Jersey's fees, plus what the park service charges. Deputy Superintendent Nelson stated that Pennsylvania would have to prove the guides are in Pennsylvania waters to enforce that. Superintendent Donahue remarked that the state did not check with the park. The Pennsylvania Fish Commission has an office in the park and may have spoken of this to park rangers, but there has been no official correspondence. Mr. Gross added that the guides also have to have insurance. Superintendent Donahue replied that fishing guides are businesses, and they do need insurance under park service regulations. Mr. Gross stated he will check into it further.

Mr. Gross stated that last year there was a problem during the small game hunting season in that none of the park farmers cut their corn. He told people it is up to the park service as to whether or not people can hunt in standing crops. He would like to see clarification on that before small game season in October, and recommend they be allowed to hunt. Superintendent Donahue replied that his decision will be what the state allows. Mr. Gross replied there is no regulation against it and the states say to get the permission of the land owner

Mr. Gross asked why beavers were being taken out of Birchenough Pond. Superintendent Donahue replied that some beavers were being removed because of problems they are causing the infrastructure. Mr. Gross stated those ponds are valuable for waterfowl. The Chief of Research and Resources Planning stated that the program has been successful. Four beavers have been removed from the pond already. The culvert below the dam is under threat of being swamped and failing. Mr. Gross asked if the dam was being removed. The reply was that the water level will be lowered. The value of that dam for waterfowl and amphibians is recognized.

Mr. Heller asked if the cost to repair 1.8 miles of Route 209, almost three million dollars a mile, is the standard cost for road repair. The reply was that the figure is higher than normal because it includes bridge work. The actual estimate is one million dollars a mile for reconstruction and every year it goes up. Mr. Heller asked how much truck traffic contributes to deterioration. Superintendent Donahue replied a lot, but there have not been as many trucks since the road was closed to commercial vehicles. Route 209 is a zone of comfort, but there are additional traffic problems because of the Marshalls Creek By-pass project. Fees are based on the number of

axles, up to \$18.00. Mr. Heller stated the closure costs money because the check stations have to be manned, so the park loses money. Superintendent Donahue replied that the purpose of the closure is to manage truck traffic and eventually to reduce it to those providing services to local people.

Ms. Maxaner referenced plans to improve Childs Park and noted the the Civilian Conservation Corps had done work there in the past. She wondered if the park would consider honoring the Corps as is done at Promised Land State Park in Pennsylvania and High Point State Park in New Jersey, perhaps with a celebration and/or a brochure highlighting their achievements.

Ms. Maxaner stated that years ago she brought up installing signs to explain how the watershed is set up to educate the public on that. She asked where that request stands. Superintendent Donahue replied that the Bushkill Watershed Conservancy placed signs in the Bushkill area as a result of grants they procured. The Friends are also raising funds to sign creeks along Route 209. All signs have to be approved by the park and meet our sign standards. Ms. Maxaner stated that she had also raised the question of having the Denver Service Center design something. Superintendent Donahue replied that it is a good idea, but it comes down to cost. The Chief of Research and Resources Planning met with the Delaware River Basin Commission and talked about trying to get individual watershed groups to work together to minimize impacts on the watersheds and to develop a model on how to create development surrounding a national recreation area. Education would be part of that. Ms. Maxaner stated that the conservation districts could be partners in this also. Superintendent Donahue stated that they have the regulatory authority in permitting the developments. He talked about the proposed large development in the Bushkill Watershed. When there is one developer putting in a large area, only one developer has to be dealt with. When there are a lot of smaller developers, they all have to be worked with. The park can work with the larger one to develop a model to use with smaller developers. The Superintendent met with the Wolfington developer and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to determine the effect on the Bushkill Falls Road and Route 209 intersection. We already have designs to redo most of them, and the developer has expressed an interest in being environmentally sensitive. Ms. Maxaner asked if there will be a folder or leaflet as to what composes a watershed? Superintendent Donahue replied that is a good idea. The park does have some watershed displays to use when educating young people in the area.

Mr. Heller asked if the jurisdiction of the county conservation districts overlap with the National Park Service. Superintendent Donahue replied that they outline the parameters for the permits. Mr. Heller stated that they may already have done a watershed analysis and will have that information. Superintendent Donahue stated that permitting is done by township supervisors. Lehman Township has said that whatever the Pike County Conservation District says will be what they require for permitting for that large development. Mr. Heller stated that with large developments, the change in velocity and flow comes over a much quicker period of time; therefore it causes serious problems that take a much longer time to recover. Superintendent Donahue replied that the developer indicated they are willing to do more. For example, they have to do secondary treatment but plan to do tertiary treatment of wastewater.

Ms. Maxaner asked if the Fiscal 2006 budget discussed tonight is a proposed budget. The reply was no, this is the current park budget. The President's budget for next year is in the hands of

Congress, and they will take as long as needed to approve it. This fiscal year was the first year the budget was approved before the beginning of the fiscal year, but it still takes a long time to get final figures down to the park level. We have raw figures, but get assessed for service wide costs. What we showed today is hopefully the final figure.

Commission Reports

By-Laws Committee

Mr. Murray will be asked to review the By-Laws. A study session will be needed to discuss them.

Cultural Resources, Mr. Kresge

There was no report.

Inter-Governmental Committee

There was no report.

Natural Resources Committee, Mr. Gross

Mr. Gross previously discussed the issues concerning this committee.

Public Visitation and Tourism

There was no report.

Recruitment Committee

Commission recruitment is done, and the committee can be eliminated. There is one New Jersey vacancy awaiting appointment. Nominations have been forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior who resigned yesterday. The Acting Secretary is Lynn Scarlet. Superintendent Donahue will check into the status of the nominations. Mr. Van Campen continues until replaced or reappointed, and Mr. Longcore has been nominated.

A motion was made to eliminate this committee. The motion was seconded. A suggestion was made to review all committees, to research them during a study session and then bring the discussion to an official meeting. The motion was rescinded.

Special Projects Committees

Depue Island Committee

There is a letter in member's packets from the Delaware RiverKeeper Network (correspondence item #19) and Ms. Shukaitis is here responding to an article in the newspaper about the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission giving eight hundred thousand dollars to Smithfield Township to build a tunnel under Interstate 80 to connect the Joseph M. McDade Recreational Trail to the new welcome center. That alerted the RiverKeeper to a major connection to the McDade trail. The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources reviewed the file wherein Shawnee has a proposal for grants for 2.4 miles of trail between the Hialeah picnic area and the welcome center. The rest will be done by Smithfield Township and others. The plans call for five bridges to be built: a footbridge across Brodhead Creek, and another four to Shawnee Island, from Shawnee Island to Depue Island (vehicular bridges), and from Depue Island to the mainland (lighter weight). The RiverKeeper is concerned about these bridges

because they will affect Depue Island and the construction of a vehicular bridge has to be of a major height because of the riverbanks and to keep it above the flood stage that keeps rising. Ms. Shukaitis stated that this Commission intelligently already took a position on this, and copies of that resolution should be sent to state and township officials so they know of our concerns. Commission input would carry more weight because they are a body of local citizens. Ms. Shukaitis recommended the Commission send copies of their materials and any new thoughts, and ask why vehicular bridges are needed and if there are still plans to build out there.

Mr. Gross stated that he will have to review the letters more closely. Mr. Price is the chair of this committee. He will be asked for an update. Superintendent Donahue recommended the resolution also be sent to the consultant for the Shawnee Institute who briefed the park on the plans for trail alignment before there was any controversy about Depue Island. They indicated they wanted a vehicular bridge, then said they wanted a walking bridge from Depue Island to the park around Hialeah. Before there was any discussion of development on Depue Island the park told them we could not support any proposal until we knew what the plans for development on that island were. That was our general opinion before we knew they intended to develop and that has not changed. We are interested in linking trails, but are not sure this alignment will work for the park. Mr. Gross stated that they cannot keep a bridge there. The one they use for golf course they pull out every year.

Ms. Maxaner asked Ms. Shukaitis, as President of the Delaware Valley Conservation Association, if they are working under a time frame. Does she recommend the Commission send the resolution to the Governor of Pennsylvania, etc? Ms. Shukaitis replied yes, because they are planning to use government money. It was \$50,000 just to study where the 2.4 mile trail should go, and much of that trail already exists along the banks in Shawnee. The concern is that it was thought the idea to develop Depue Island was put on the shelf, but we have found that is wrong, the plan is alive. Three years went by and Ms. Shukaitis feels Shawnee is impatient to get it done. There are serious reservations about bridges, and the state, who will decide on whether Shawnee gets the grant, needs to hear from everyone. The resolution will be mailed to the Governor and others as suggested.

Superintendent Donahue reported that the Shawnee Greenway Steering Committee is meeting Tuesday night and he believes the planners will present their plans. Ms. Shukaitis added that there is a meeting March 28 at the Shawnee Firehouse. She suggested that information be given to those in the drivers seat. She does not object to the trail, she is concerned about the river and the islands, and that the plans are proceeding without the proper input.

Pocono Environmental Education Center Committee

The Pocono Environmental Education Center has already been discussed.

Business and finances Committee

This issue was already discussed.

Walpack Environmental Education Center Committee

Mr. Gross asked if the deal with Warren County Community College for use of the center is dead. The reply was yes. There are discussions with Peters Valley and the Student Conservation

Association for use of the facility. We would like to have it used for education or for a group who provides work in the park.

Old Business

Mr. Gross asked about member attendance. Ms. Nelson checked the attendance list and found that no member has missed three consecutive meetings in the past year. Chair Kresge stated that attendance is important, and it is hard, but a quorum is needed because the Commission cannot act as a body if there is no a quorum. More study sessions are needed.

Ms. Maxaner asked if the Depue Island Resolution was distributed to the other entities mentioned tonight. The resolution was sent to the Director of the National Park Service. It can be sent to others as suggested. The resolution was signed in October 2004. Superintendent Donahue suggested that Mr. Price and the committee should revisit the relevant parties to find out what their plans actually are. Chair Kresge asked if any of these discussions were shared with Shawnee. Superintendent Donahue replied that the park maintains a good relationship with them and meets with them about this and other issues, but he is not sure the Commission's concerns have been communicated directly. He never saw anything direct from Shawnee. Chair Kresge will draft a cover letter and send the resolution to state, county and local officials with a copy to Shawnee.

Ms. Shukaitis stated that there were twelve thousand private owners in the park to begin with. The dye is cast. They loved the park before and they love it now. The island was there and Shawnee was there in 1965, when Fred Waring was the owner and was never interested in developing the island. He loved nature. The next owner was Carl Hope who developed skiing. This is a national park, not Smithfield's park or a county park or Pennsylvania's park. It is a small park being surrounded by a city, with more and more people moving in and the park will grow smaller and smaller. Shawnee is not an inholding because no one bought it and took it away from Shawnee. If the government had had the money they would have bought it, but they did not and Fred Waring made the once private golf course public so they were allowed to stay. Inholders would be expected to conform to the values of the park. Kittatinny Beach was a going business as were many others that were taken. This property does not need to be taken, but there has to be a middle road where they conform to the values of this park. Chair Kresge asked if anyone from Shawnee had been invited to come to a Commission meeting to explain themselves. Ms. Shukaitis stated that people come to the meetings because they want to come here, not because they get separate invitations. She added that Shawnee was given an exception that many did not get. Shawnee Inn was built in 1910. Ms. Shukaitis' family came in 1794. Where do you draw the line as to how much Shawnee can do? Mr. Kresge stated that his concerns are the same as Ms. Shukaitis, but he would like the communication on Shawnee to go two ways.

New Business

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Thursday, May 4, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. at the Pequest Trout Hatchery in Oxford, New Jersey.

Future meetings were scheduled for Thursday, August 24, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lehman Township Municipal Building, Bushkill, Pennsylvania, and Saturday, November 4, 2006 at a location in Sussex County.

A discussion ensued about scheduling meetings in advance because it is taking longer and longer to get them published in the *Federal Register* as required.

A study session will be held at park headquarters on Thursday, April 27, 2006 at 6:30 p.m.

Chair Kresge will meet with Ms. Nelson to complete the annual report.

A dinner to honor former member Dr. Mineo will be scheduled.

Public Participation

Tom Hoffman

Mr. Hoffman asked if there would be a meeting to elect Commission officers following this meeting. The reply was yes. Mr. Hoffman stated that according to the By-Laws, that meeting has to include public participation. He asked the Chair to allow the public to speak up with comments about those running for office. Chair Kresge replied that it is the Commission's decision who they select. Mr. Hoffman asked that the public be allowed to question candidates about their values. Mr. Hanley stated that the election is an internal process. The public does not vote. Chair Kresge stated that Mr. Hoffman is entitled to ask questions, but the Commission makes the nominations. They do not have to answer him.

Oliver Grimsdell

Mr. Grimsdell asked about the next steps regarding the use of all terrain vehicles in the park, and if the public comment period had expired. Superintendent Donahue explained that the comment period on the Draft National Park Service Management Policies had concluded. Washington received tens of thousands of comments which will help direct what they decide. Normally, public comments are addressed, and either included or not, then they issue the final document. They may decide to go for further public comment. It is not the Superintendent's decision. Mr. Grimsdell stated that this decision should be left up to local superintendents, and should that happen, asked what the next steps are. Superintendent Donahue replied that he would not make any changes unless there was a proposal from the public. If proposals are received, he would open the issue for public comment and go through the compliance process.

Tom Hoffman

Mr. Hoffman asked if \$300,000 was going into the Marie Zimmermann property this year. The reply was yes. He asked if there was a former \$700,000 that went into that building. The reply was yes, it is all the same appropriation. Deputy Superintendent Nelson explained that we had intended to obligate all of that last year but did not do that. This is the remaining amount. The money was spent over a few years. Mr. Hoffman stated that the building has not been opened to the public and when that will happen is not clear. Superintendent Donahue replied that we never said that would be enough, and the park never pursued that funding. We did not ask for the money, we did not ask for that project. People in the local area asked Congress for that.

Mr. Hoffman stated that he saw buildings in imminent state of collapse in the Peters Valley and Thunder Mountain areas. He asked if they have been razed as it is a public area. The Acting Chief of Resource Protection and Visitor Management explained that the buildings are at the

Thunder Mountain School, under the auspices of Peters Valley, and they are still standing. Mr. Hoffman stated there is a schedule for posting buildings that are in such bad shape in a heavily visited area. The Management Assistant stated that Peters Valley has engaged in a massive investment into upgrading all facilities. Mr. Hoffman replied that does not deal with the present situation. An instructor from a visiting college was embarrassed by the shape of the roads going in there. The buildings are dangerous and the public has to be informed. The buildings should at least be signed as there is no money available for a number of years. Superintendent Donahue stated that Mr. Hoffman would be better served by addressing him directly in correspondence and getting a specific answer. This is a public comment session to give comments and if Mr. Hoffman would make suggestions about closures and postings, the Superintendent would respond as he has in the past. He asked Mr. Hoffman to restrict his comments to actual comments. Mr. Hoffman stated that his comments are comments. Superintendent Donahue stated that Mr. Hoffman is interrogating, not making comments. Mr. Hoffman referenced the By-Laws which state that the public can ask questions. Superintendent Donahue stated that if Mr. Hoffman wants specific information, he would be better served by addressing that through the normal processes for the National Park Service. That is his opinion and what the By-Laws state. Mr. Hoffman can ask a question but he may not get an answer. Mr. Hoffman replied that is historical.

Mr. Hoffman asked if the plume of pollution from a fuel storage tank a few years ago at the Pocono Environmental Education Center has been remediated. Superintendent Donahue asked him to be specific. Mr. Hoffman stated that he wrote to the Superintendent about this. Superintendent Donahue replied that he did not write to him about it. Mr. Hoffman stated that he gave Deputy Superintendent Nelson one of his reports that he distributes to the public. Superintendent Donahue replied that Mr. Hoffman but did not write a letter to the Superintendent about a plume from the Pocono Environmental Education Center. He distributes reports to the public as part of his First Amendment Rights, but they are not letters to the Superintendent. Mr. Hoffman stated that he brought up a concern at a Commission meeting over a year ago about the Birchenough property and an unpleasant encounter with people walking there. Superintendent Donahue stated at the time that he would check the lease. Mr. Hoffman asked if the Superintendent had accomplished that. Superintendent Donahue replied that he does not believe he did.

Mr. Hoffman urged members of the Commission become familiar with two issues: Watershed planning on which there is an all day workshop in New York City, and Mr. Garriss' group which meets twice a month. Members should attend these meetings and become as knowledgeable as they can on these issues.

Mr. Hoffman spoke to irregularities with Commission meetings in that historically members do not follow the By-Laws and legislation. He suggested they study the guidelines in order to be effective. He added that yes, the public can ask questions and they will. Superintendent Donahue responded that Mr. Hoffman is the only one who violates the By-laws.

Mr. Garriss stated that his watershed group meets once a month on the second Tuesday at the Lehman Township building.

Adjournment

This meeting of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Citizen Advisory Commission was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Citizen Advisory Commission was called to order at 12:03 p.m. on Saturday, March 11, 2006, at the Bushkill Visitor Center, Bushkill, Pennsylvania.

Roll Call

Citizen Advisory Commission members in attendance were Ms. Bertucci-Turner, Mr. Gross, Mr. Hanley, Mr. Heller, Mr. Kresge, Ms. Maxaner, and Ms. McDowell. Absent were Mr. Murray, Mr. Price, and Mr. Van Campen.

Election of officers:

Mr. Gross was unanimously elected Chairman of the Citizen Advisory Commission for the 2006-2007 term.

Ms. McDowell was unanimously elected Vice-Chairman of the Citizen Advisory Commission for the 2006-2007 term.

Mr. Gross will put something in writing about the committees to be discussed during the study session.

Adjournment

This annual meeting of the Citizen Advisory Commission was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

Public Participation

Mr. Hoffman

Mr. Hoffman asked if there was discussion of looking at fuel burning vehicles impacting the park. Mr. Gross responded that the Commission would have to look into that and discuss it. Mr. Hoffman stated that the recreation areas is surrounded by traffic, and this is an excellent time to contact the Environmental Protection Agency to ask them to monitor air quality. Mr. Gross suggested Mr. Hoffman put that in a letter to the Commission who will address it at the next meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Nelson, Secretary

Approved:

E. Gregory Kresge, Chair